The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was <u>not</u> written for publication and is <u>not</u> binding precedent of the Board.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

<u>Ex parte</u> BRUCE G. LINDSAY, CATHERINE S. MCARTHUR
and MICHAEL J. WINER

Appeal No. 2006-1592
Application No. 09/757,431

ON BRIEF

Before HAIRSTON, BARRY, and MACDONALD, <u>Administrative Patent Judges</u>.

HAIRSTON, <u>Administrative Patent Judge</u>.

<u>DECISION ON APPEAL</u>

This is an appeal from the final rejection of claims 1 through 14, 56 and 57.

The disclosed invention relates to the processing of a database query on a set of data in a database management component system having a data manager and an index manager. After a data identifier has been located in an index for a selected key value, a callback is issued to the data manager, and the index manager continues to carry out an index-data fetch for

another data identifier if there is another data identifier for

the selected key value in the index, and if the index manager

receives a specific condition from the data manager in response

to the callback.

Claim 1 is illustrative of the claimed invention, and it

reads as follows:

1. A method for processing a database query on a set of data
in a database management system having a data manager and an
index manager, the method comprising the steps of:

a) in response to a data manager call to locate a data
identifier in an index corresponding to a selected key value,
performing the steps of:

i) locating the data identifier in the index for the
selected key value; and

ii) issuing a callback to the data manager; and

b) continuing to carry out an index-data fetch for another
data identifier if there is another data identifier for the
selected key value in the index and the index manager receives a
specific condition from the data manger in response to the
callback.

The references relied on by the examiner are:

Edwards et al. (Edwards)	6,353,820	Mar. 5, 2002	
		(filed Sept. 29, 1999)	
Ponnekanti et al. (Ponnekanti)	6,363,387	Mar. 26, 2002	
		(filed July 31, 1999)	

Claims 1 through 14, 56 and 57 stand rejected under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ponnekanti in view

of Edwards.

Reference is made to the brief and the answer for the

respective positions of the appellants and the examiner.

OPINION

We have carefully considered the entire record before us,

and we will reverse the obviousness rejection of claims 1 through

14, 56 and 57.

Ponnekanti describes a method for processing a database

query on a set of data in a database management system having a

data manager and an index manager (column 1, lines 25 through 29

and column 4, lines 31 through 43). In response to a call to

locate a data identifier in an index corresponding to a selected

key value, the index manager locates the data identifier in the

index for the selected key value (column 15, lines 31 through 33

and column 16, lines 6 through 30).

The examiner and the appellants agree that Ponnekanti does

not describe "issuing a callback to the data manager" as required

by the claims on appeal (answer, page 5; brief, page 5).

According to the examiner (answer, page 5), "Edwards

discloses issuing the call to the calling program for index key

3

value in the searching index key (col. 7, lines 10-18 and col. 5, lines 28-33)." The examiner concludes (answer, pages 5 and 6) "it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ponnekanti with the teachings of Edwards so as to have a callback to the calling program in order to return the record associated with index key value (col. 7, lines 10-18)."

The appellants argue (brief, pages 5 through 8) that Edwards neither teaches nor would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art "issuing a callback to the data manager," and "Ponnekanti in view of Edwards fails to teach or suggest 'continuing to carry out an index-data fetch for another data identifier if . . . the index manager receives a specific condition from the data manager in response to the callback,' as recited in claims 1 and 8."

Edwards describes a call at column 5, lines 28 through 33, but the call is made between several component parts (i.e., 201 and 202) of the multilayer relational database management system (RDMS) 200 (figure 2). Edwards describes a calling program at column 7, lines 10 through 18, but the call is still made between several components parts (i.e., 204 and 206) of the RDMS 200. In other words, Edwards makes a call within the database management

4

system and neither teaches nor would have suggested "issuing a callback to the data manager." Edwards is silent as to the index manager performing any action as a result of the calls made within the component parts of the RDMS 200. Thus, the obviousness rejection of claims 1 through 14, 56 and 57 is reversed because we agree with the appellants' argument (brief, page 7) that the applied references neither teach nor would have suggested to the skilled artisan a specific condition sent by the data manager and received by the index manager "in response to the callback."
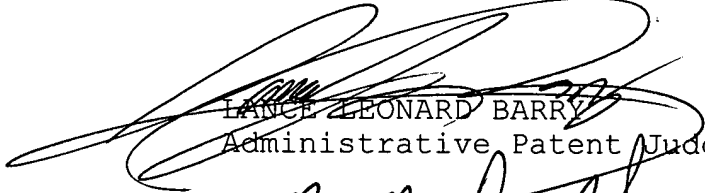
DECISION

The decision of the examiner rejecting claims 1 through 14, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is reversed.

REVERSED

KENNETH W. HAIRSTON
Administrative Patent Judge   )
)
)
)
)   BOARD OF PATENT
LANCE LEONARD BARRY   )
Administrative Patent Judge   )   APPEALS AND
)
)   INTERFERENCES
)
ALLEN R. MACDONALD   )
Administrative Patent Judge   )

KWH/rwk

6

Appeal No. 2006-1592
Application No. 09/757,431

SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP
P.O. BOX 51418
PALO ALTO, CA 94303